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Preface

<https://doi.org/10.1515/stuf-2021-1029>

This issue of *Language Typology and Universals* assembles a collection of papers that deal with the analysis of a variety of gender systems in African languages. Most contributions arose from the international workshop “Gender across Niger-Congo” held in November 2018 at the Institute of Asian and African Studies (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin). While the meeting focused on Niger-Congo languages, a few presentations also dealt with languages of different genealogical affiliation.

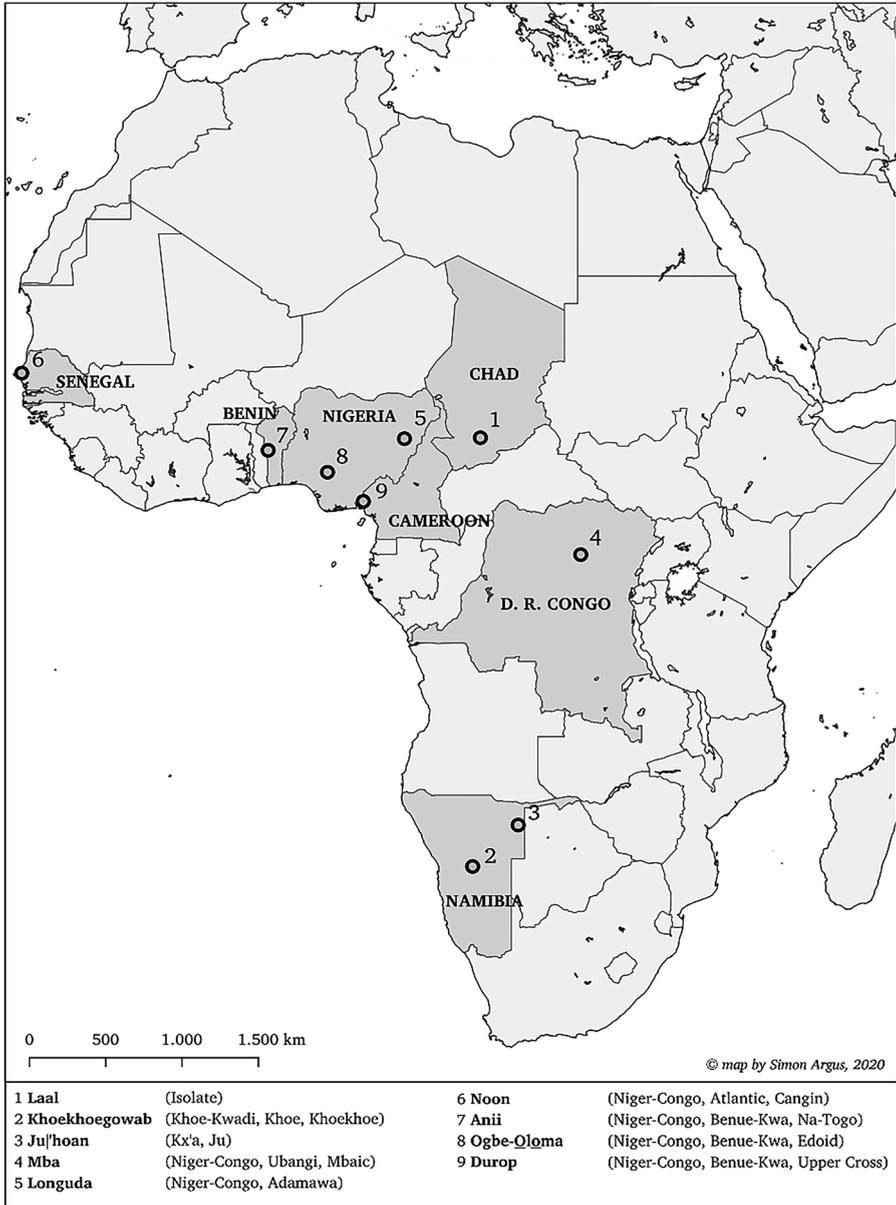
We would like to thank all workshop participants for interesting presentations and discussions, notably Denis Creissels, Dmitry Idiatov, Jan Junglas, Ulrich Kleinewillinghöfer, Florian Lionnet, John Merrill, Gudrun Mieke, Konstantin Pozdniakov, Brigitte Reineke, Ron Schaefer, Michael Schulze, Guillaume Segerer, and Mark van de Velde.

The workshop was organized within the framework of the ongoing research project “Noun classification systems in Africa between gender and nominal declension ~ deriflection” which has been sponsored by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) – project number 338110259 since March of 2017. We are very grateful for this financial support of the project in general and the workshop in particular. These thanks also concern six of the ten articles contained in this volume, as they are fully or partly the result of research carried out within or in connection with the project, namely the introduction and the articles on Khoekhoegowab, Mba, Longuda, Noon, and Anii.

In order to make the language-specific descriptions maximally comparable, we urged the contributors to employ or at least engage with our cross-linguistically oriented analytical approach to gender outlined here in the introductory article. We want to thank all authors for their willingness to do so. The similar outline in description and analysis makes the differences and similarities between the individual gender systems described here more visible. Regarding the majority of contributions treating Niger-Congo languages, a high degree of uniformity also sheds light on the origin and subsequent dynamics of the so-called “noun class” systems of this family.

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Map: African languages treated in this volume.

Further thanks are directed to the editors and staff of *Language Universals and Typology* for inviting us as guest editors of this volume and their support during the editorial process. Last but not least, we extend our gratitude to a number of colleagues who agreed to review contributions to this volume, namely Francesca Di Garbo, Klaudia Dombrowsky-Hahn, Jeff Good, Wilfrid Haacke, Ulrich Kleinewillinghöfer, Florian Lionnet, Helma Pasch, Michael Schulze, and Bernhard Wächli, as well as to Simon Argus for producing the Map, to Gianna Marks for English proofreading and to Julius-Maximilian Elstermann for help in formatting.